



United States Department of Energy
Isotope Program SC-26.2
2013 Invitation for Bids to Purchase Helium-3 Gas

The U.S. Department of Energy (Department) has been participating in an Interagency Group to manage the federal supply of helium-3 (He-3). The Interagency Group assesses and prioritizes requests for He-3 necessary for the federal mission, and takes steps to decrease demand and increase supply. The success of the Interagency Group has mitigated short- to mid-term impacts of a He-3 shortage. Recognizing important activities outside of the federal mission require He-3, the Department announces 4,000 liters of purified He-3 gas will be made available for sale through competitive bidding. Stakeholders whose Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 He-3 needs will be met by the federal allocation process, or who submitted requests for He-3 gas through a U.S. federal agency in anticipation of participating in the FY 2014 federal allocation process, should not participate in this auction. The minimum quantity which will be sold will be 25 liters of He-3 gas at STP. Bids will not be accepted for less than 25 liters. Bidders may submit multiple bids amounting to the entire 4,000 liters available. If a Bidder requests a total amount of He-3 up to and including 100 liters, the bid must be in multiples of 25 liters. If a Bidder requests more than 100 liters, the bid must be in multiples of 100 liters. Initially, each Bidder will be limited to 400 liters. Any He-3 remaining after all accepted bids receive initial awards will be awarded to highest Bidders over 400 liters.

He-3 will be delivered in cylinders with a Compressed Gas Association 580 brass valve. Unless otherwise specified by the Bidder, He-3 gas will be packaged and delivered in Size 6 or Size 30 compressed gas cylinders, as appropriate. Each cylinder will contain the nominal volume of He-3 gas awarded, purified, and at standard temperature and pressure (STP). Cylinders are designed to U.S. Department of Transportation specification, 3AA 2015, and are refillable cylinders.

DOE's Invitation for Bids (IFB) for the purchase of He-3 gas is scheduled to be posted on <http://www.isotopes.gov/he-3auction> on **August 9, 2013**, and will be available for downloading from this website. The Department will accept questions regarding the IFB. All questions must be submitted via email to He3auction@science.doe.gov no later than **5 PM (Eastern Daylight Time) August 23, 2013**. DOE will respond to all questions by **5 PM (Eastern Daylight Time) August 28, 2013**. DOE will post all questions received and their corresponding answers on the website <http://www.isotopes.gov/he-3auction>. The identity of the stakeholder posing the question will be kept anonymous and will not be posted on the website.

All valid bids to purchase He-3 gas must be received by the U.S. Department of Energy no later than **5 PM**, local prevailing time (Washington, DC) on **September 17, 2013**. The Department requires bids from qualified Bidders be submitted in **electronic format** to He3auction@science.doe.gov. A confirmation of receipt will be sent electronically within the next business day. **Bids will not be accepted via U.S. Postal Service mail.**